



RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Academic year 2023 - 2024

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Consistent to our mission and in compliance with the KHDA policy on child protection and support, we at RIS are responsible for the care, protection, safety and welfare of our students in a safe study environment in order to develop their confidence, talents and abilities in our truly international school community.

The school is also aware that children might become potential victims of abuse/maltreatment. To ensure consistency in providing quality care and proper handling of different terms of abuse/maltreatment, the RIS has established the Child Protection Policy.

To be able to recognize and provide proper handling and protection of any forms of child abuse/maltreatment, the following definitions are provided for reference:

- 1. Physical Abuse** – A deliberate physical injury inflicted to a child/student, such as hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or other acts that cause physical harm to the child/student. The possible indicators or physical evidences of these acts are bruises, cuts, burns, breaks, puncture marks (i.e. repeated in an unusual form and on the same place, inconsistent explanation of the same, etc.).
- 2. Neglect** – Constant failure to meet the child/student`s basic physical and/or psychological needs. This includes but is not limited to failure to provide food, clothing and shelter (abandonment or exclusion from abode), absence or lack of supervision, no medical treatment that may result to any form of child health related issues, no emotional support. A neglected child can manifest malnourishment, starvation, dirty clothing and consistent absence of food among others.
- 3. Emotional abuse** – Persistent rejection and maltreatment affecting the total behavioral, physical and emotional development of a child/student. Emotional abuse includes but it is not limited to verbal abuse, neglect and exposure to domestic violence. An emotionally abused child/student can manifest unhappy/unloved disposition, withdrawn personality, low self-esteem and motivation, fear or overreacting in showing his/her talents and emotions, and disturbed behavior.
- 4. Sexual abuse** – Enticing, forcing or exploiting a child/student to participate in sexual activities for the benefit of another person`s sexual gratification/acts. Sexual activities include but are not limited to reading, watching and listening to pornography either from the internet, print materials and broadcast, sexual intercourse, masturbation, touching of the sex organs, fondling or petting, sexually inappropriate matters, and withdrawal.
- 5. Bullying** – is a distressing and deliberately hurtful behavior, usually repeated over a period of time, which in most cases victims usually have difficulties in defending themselves and sometimes may not be able to recover from the physical harm (i.e. hitting, kicking, theft, verbal abuse/inappropriate remarks/racism, threats, etc.) and emotional trauma

(seclusion/isolation from school related activities, fear of rejection, etc.) caused by bullying behavior.

6. **Child Protection Team** – A specialized group of professionals or individuals created to help identify, investigate and prevent cases of child abuse/maltreatment and neglect among others. Its activities are coordinated with the school management, proper government and non-government authorities that provide necessary tools, facilities and medical treatment for the victims and their families.
7. **Reporting Procedures** – A protocol for identifying a victim of abuse, establishment and gathering of evidence, recording of facts of the case, and formally informing the authorities about the case.

To support the Child Protection Policy, the school is committed to:

1. Recruiting qualified professional teachers and staff whose qualifications and documentation have been thoroughly checked.
2. Providing the teachers and staff necessary trainings to address the issues and concerns affecting the child/student and to recognize an early detection of child abuse/treatment.
3. Providing assistance to the victims of child abuse/maltreatment.
4. Providing safe environment where children/students can learn and develop their potentials, skills and knowledge.
5. Disseminate timely information (i.e. publications, memoranda, bulletins, advisories, etc.) to members of the school community and parents regarding policies, events, concerns, etc.

The Child Protection Team (CPT) is headed by the principal to be assisted by the following:

1. Faculty (Heads of Departments, class teachers, subject teachers)
 2. Doctor/Nurse
 3. Parents (on a case-to-case basis)
 4. Students (on a case-to-case basis)
 5. Student Affairs/Parent Relations Co-ordinator
- The Team shall recommend the management measures to ensure a safe environment for children/student conducive to study;
 - Ensure that children are aware of the school's CPT in handling cases of child abuse;
 - Recommend the incorporation of relevant programs into the curriculum for the children to easily recognize the forms of abuse/maltreatment;
 - Keep written records (cases filled, action taken, on-going investigation, reports, etc.) of cases for future references and following up of cases. The records shall be confidential and shall have separate location from the main student file/records;
 - Periodically follow up of cases of abuse and allegations made against any member of the school staff.

REPORTING PROCESS

1. The class teacher, parent or any concerned individual prepares a written report on the suspected case of abuse/maltreatment or neglect and sends the same to the CPT through the Principal.
2. After receiving the report, the Principal immediately convenes the CPT to determine the appropriate action on the report to commence an investigation and file a case if warranted.
3. The report/s to the Chair of CPT must include the following: name and address of the reporter/complainant; name, address and age of the victim; name and address of the parents or guardians of the victim; name and address of the suspected offender; facts of the case, supporting evidences; and any other information that may be useful in filing a formal administrative, civil or criminal case against the offender.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Members of school community will be informed on the RIS Child Protection Policy through channels of communication.

The RIS Educational Management Team